



## OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT POLICE AUDITOR

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75 East Santa Clara Street, Lower Level, Suite 93  
San José, CA 95113  
TEL (408) 794-6226 • FAX (408) 977-1053  
[www.sanJoseca.gov/ipa/](http://www.sanJoseca.gov/ipa/)

### *News Release*

**For Immediate Release:**  
**Thursday, October 27, 2011**

**Contact:**  
**Diane Doolan- Diaz, IPA Senior Analyst**  
**(408) 891-7575 cell or (408) 794-6226 office**

### **Judge Cordell, Independent Police Auditor, to Receive ACLU Award**

**San José** – City of San Jose’s Independent Police Auditor (IPA), Judge LaDoris H. Cordell (Ret.), will receive the 2011 Don Edwards Civil Liberties Award from the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California (ACLU-NC) on Saturday, October 29, 2011. The award will be given during the chapter’s annual membership meeting at the Santa Clara Central Park Library, 2635 Homestead Road, Santa Clara, CA 95051. The event is open to the public. Registration will begin at 2pm with the actual program commencing promptly at 2:30pm. Reservations are not required but are encouraged (<http://norcal.aclu.org/site/Calendar?id=111521&view=Detail>).

“Judge Cordell was selected to receive the 2011 ACLU-SCV Don Edward's Award in recognition of her very important work as the San Jose Independent Police Auditor, and her willingness to help insure that the duties of the police do not needlessly encroach on civil liberties,” said Robert Cartelli, Chair of ACLU-NC, Santa Clara Valley Chapter.

Judge Cordell became the first African-American female judge in Northern California in 1982. Over the course of her distinguished career, she has received many honors for her contributions to civil rights and to the local community, including the Santa Clara County Trial Lawyers Association’s “Judge of the Year” award and the Silicon Valley NAACP’s Freedom Fighter Award. Since May 2010, Judge Cordell has served as San Jose’s Independent Police Auditor. According to the San Jose Mercury News, she has “set the gold standard for this office, raising the bar for professionalism, community outreach, transparency and innovation.”

The Don Edwards Civil Liberties Award is presented annually to an individual or organization that has played a significant role in promoting or defending civil liberties in the Santa Clara Valley community during the last year. The award is named in honor of Congressman Don Edwards, who served the Santa Clara Valley as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1962 through 1995, and who played a leadership role with every major civil rights and civil liberties legislation passed by Congress.

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The Office of the San José Independent Police Auditor was established by the City Council in 1993 to provide oversight of the citizen complaint process, analyze patterns and trends regarding police conduct and make recommendations for improvements in policies, procedures and training to the San José Police Department ([www.sanjoseca.gov/IPA](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/IPA)).

The ACLU-NC Santa Clara Valley Chapter is the local voice and community for ACLU members who live and work in the Santa Clara County cities of Campbell, Cupertino, Gilroy, Los Gatos, Milpitas, Monte Sereno, Morgan Hill, San Jose, Santa Clara, Saratoga, and Sunnyvale CA. The local chapter operates under the auspices of the ACLU of Northern California, a regional affiliate of the national American Civil Liberties Union (<http://www.acluscv.org/>).

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